

0086 Abstract

0087 A new and useful barrier device for a fluid system cover is provided. A preferred version of the barrier device comprises a one piece cap structure designed to be coupled to a fluid system cover (e.g. a water meter cover), in a way that effectively seals the opening in the cover against ingress of dirt, debris, animals, etc. Moreover, the present invention provides a barrier device that, in its preferred form, also provides a structure that enables a hook like tool to engage and manipulate the coupled barrier device and cover, while maintaining the barrier against ingress of dirt, debris, animals, etc. The one piece barrier device includes a hood with a border configured to at least partially flatten against a fluid system cover as the one piece structure is being coupled to the fluid system cover, so that the border of the hood and the fluid system cover combine to form a barrier to materials and objects near the border of the hood. A stem is formed in one piece with the hood, and is pressed into the fluid system cover, in a way that effectively couples the barrier device with the cover. For covers that are too thick for the one piece cap structure, extender structure is provided, to extend the thickness of the cover(s) to which the barrier structure can be coupled. In its preferred form, the one-piece structure includes a recess designed for engagement by a tool, to enable a coupled barrier device and cover to be manipulated by the tool.